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## CHERISHED GIFT OF GETHSEMANE

Cross Made of Olive Wood  
Symbolizes Mood of Our  
World Today.

### LEARNING TO PRIZE CROSS

Lesson of Cavalry Taught.  
Life Laid Down Highest  
Conception Existence.

(International Sunday School Lesson, "Jesus on the Cross."—Mark xv. 1-47.)  
(By William T. Ellis.)

Back from France and busy with the classification of information and impressions gathered there, I find myself called upon to write a Sunday school lesson dealing with the crucifixion.

Straightway there march across my vision the crosses of France—the wayside crucifixes; the great floral cross of the Church of the Madeleine, Paris, on Good Friday at the hour when the German long-range gun devastated a similar service in another part of the city; the crosses that cluster so thickly by the battlefields and in the graveyards; the new wooden crosses hurriedly made for a group of American graves, after a great action; the little crosses which the peasants of Brittany offer at the foot of the wayside shrines; the outstanding red—oh, so red!—of the cross in the British flag; the red cross that is the symbol of mercy and ministry—is this not the war of the cross?

A spirit sublimely sacrificial pervades this war. There is less talk of religion than the folk at home imagine, of formal piety there is very little; soldiers have a horror of parading their religion, or of anything that may seem like pharisaism. They often cloak their deepest feelings beneath jesting speech. The ideals of the war are not discussed in the camps and in the trenches as much as they are among the people at home. Soldiers have reached the action stage. Yet their purpose and spirit are branded with the cross of service and sacrifice. Does it seem irrelevant to say that the army wears the stigma on its hidden soul?

"Over the Top" for Others.  
Starting in its indifference to conventional forms and phraseology of religion, the army has none the less glimpsed the

glory of the cross spirit. Men who go to death for reasons entirely outside of themselves, and for the sake of others who have no immediate personal claim upon them, cannot be indifferent to the example and inspiration of the Savior who "went over the top" of Calvary for the redemption of men. Much of the finest heroism of this war finds its spring in the death of that other young man, the Hero of the ages, who gave up all, and suffered all, for the sake of an ideal and of a service.

Recently, many soldiers know in their deepest hearts that they are following in His footsteps when they sing their lives into this ministry of mankind. Chaplains remark upon the eagerness of soldiers for the Lord's Supper; men who have never partaken of the sacred emblems in civil life kneel reverently in Y. M. C. A. hut or in barracks or in a dugout to receive the Memorial of the Crucified. What is this but a sense of the fellowship of the Redeemed, who first gave His body to be broken for the sake of the world. The sense of fellowship in sacrifice is real. The soldier servants of a cause that would have been impossible had it not been for the men how to die for an ideal and a duty feel their kinship with, as well as dependence upon, the Christ who became a sacrifice. With a new and living and untheological reality, the cross has become central to this war. All the countless battlefields crosses that point backward and upward with their arms of faith testify to a fresh appreciation of Christ and Him crucified.

From Calvary to the Somme.  
Horror-stricken by the awfulness of this war, many persons are unable to look beyond the moment, with its weight of suffering and death. They see no reason for it all, and they feel as if they were to recall Calvary. It has been nearly two thousand years since Christ died, the just for the unjust. How many times during these long centuries it has seemed as if His supreme sacrifice was in vain! The cross-principle seemed to triumph with heartbreaking slowness. Ardent selfishness and sordidness and smallness persisted. Twenty centuries is a long time to wait for the vindication of an act and a principle.

But behold! In an unexpected day, when materialism was rampant on earth and pride and ambition stalked abroad in vaunting arrogance, there sounded the call of the cross—the summons to lay down life for the sake of God's goals of righteousness and justice and mercy. A power calling itself "superman" that scoffed at right and sneered at Jesus as a weakling, hung its iron gauntlet into the whole world's arena. Would the nations dare to respond? Or would the crushing of Belgium be permitted and the destruction of Serbia and the nullification of all the slowly erected sanctities of civilization be allowed to go by default?

Then came the answer that proved the reality of the cross principle in the life of Christian peoples. Great nations flung themselves, in sublime surrender of all the former prizes of life, upon the cross of sacrifice. The lesson of Calvary has not gone unlearned. Life laid down is still the highest conception of existence. To offer up all for the sake of others, and of principles, is the act that links man with God, and that relates Calvary to the Somme. Whoever would see the outworking of the crucifixion of Jesus needs but to behold the stream of dedicated soldiers pouring across the waters to France. These young men who go forth to die are in the train of the Hero of the cross. By their labors and death they are establishing the supremacy of the cross-principle in civilization. It is a new world, pledged to vicariousness, that is being created on the battlefields of France. This reward is worth all that it costs; even as God deemed the salvation of mankind worthy the sacrifice of His only Son.

### The Gift From the Garden.

"I find myself liking this cross best of all my treasures, and wearing it oftenest," said one, a few days ago, to whom I had once brought a little olive-wood cross that I had made in Jerusalem from a piece of wood of the ancient olive tree that still grows in the Garden of Gethsemane. The sentiment symbolizes the mood of our world today. We are learning to prize the cross of sacrifice, and to enter into its deeper meanings. Uncounted parents and wives and sweethearts have come to a new spiritual height as they have offered up their spirits upon the war's cross. Theirs is the greatest sacrifice; and by it they have come to know the fellowship of the Crucified. Life at home is being sanctified by the self-surrender of all who suffer because of what they have given up for this war's sacred cause. It seems, at times, as if this Calvary experience of our countries may be their real salvation. To bear a cross, and even to be crucified in spirit on the cross, is to know life's redemption and life's Redeemed.

Two great words of Scripture are often found in many minds during these days. One is "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." We perceive how war's unmeasured sacrifice is purging the nations of grossness and evil. The price that is being paid should free us from our national sins. Should this war end without the transformation of the life of the nations engaged, it will have been fought in vain. Every drop of blood shed on the battlefield is a call to sanctification at home. The other Bible verse in mind is, "If ye will love the life of his soul and be satisfied." Out of all this harvest of woe there is being threshed the fine grain of the fulfilled purposes of a Supreme Authority whose thoughts are greater than our thoughts. Somehow, in ways we cannot fully understand, God is fulfilling the sacrifice of His Son in this great hour. All who serve and suffer vicariously in this hour of crucifixion are sharers in the travail and triumph of the patient Christ.

The Little Crosses of Brittany.  
A few weeks ago, in traveling about fair Brittany, I saw a new usage and learned a new lesson. Like all the devout peasants of France, it is the custom of these people to erect wayside crosses, with the figure of the Crucified upon them. In Brittany, however, they have a usage all their own. For at the base of the crosses by the roadside they have laid little wooden crosses, which represent their personal prayers and thanksgivings. It is common to see a cross, where roads meet, with dozens of simple little wooden crosses heaped about its foot.

That is the best thing to do with our little crosses—the cares and perplexities and burdens and sorrows and misunderstandings and bitternesses and defeat of life. Take them to the Cross of Christ and leave them there. In His great sacrifice all our little sacrifices may be merged. His cross is the refuge for our crosses. There is no care too small, as there is no sorrow too great, to be comprehended in the salvation wrought on Calvary's cross.

### PLANS IMPROVEMENT FOR ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

(International News Service.)  
Washington, June 12.—To make extensions and improvements necessary that electric power plants may meet the demands upon them by the country's war program, an appropriation of \$200,000,000 is to be asked of congress, Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, announced today. The plan is said to have been the asking of the White House.

## ELEVEN PERSONS KILLED IN AIR RAID ON CALAIS

Germans Attack an Important French City on English Channel—Four Captains Victims.

(International News Service.)  
London, June 12.—Eleven persons were killed, including four captains, in a German air raid over the French city of Calais early today.

(Calais is one of the most important points on the English channel and has been used as a British base.)

## SPARTANBURG STORE RAIDED IN BROAD DAY

Unknown Soldier Forces Clerk to Handcuff Manager and Gets Away With Cash.

(Associated Press.)  
Spartanburg, S. C., June 12.—An unknown soldier this morning at 9 o'clock entered the pawnshop of R. Skalowski, on East Main street in the heart of the business section of Spartanburg, held up the two employees at the point of a pistol, forced a clerk to handcuff the manager, then tied and gagged the two clerks and rifled the safe of the establishment. He secured the sum of \$150 in money and at least one ring. Trays in the windows of the establishment contained diamonds worth at least \$4,000, but the robber did not molest any of these.

The soldier entered the store and claimed to be a military policeman, asking to see some handcuffs. When

shown the handcuffs he suddenly produced a pistol and held up the clerks. He warned the employees of the establishment that he had pals on the outside, and several other soldiers were seen through the door loitering on the sidewalk, but they took no active part in the affair. At the time dozens of people were passing along Main street. Military police and civilian police are at work on the case.

## BOLSHEVIK MINISTER TO COME TO WASHINGTON

(Associated Press.)  
London, June 12.—It is reported in Copenhagen, says a Daily Mail dispatch from that city, that M. Borovskiy-Odovsky, the bolshevik minister to Sweden, is to go to Washington as bolshevik ambassador to the United States. The minister is now in Berlin.

## MYSTERIOUS MALADY BREAKS OUT IN BELFAST

(International News Service.)  
London, June 12.—A mysterious malady has broken out among the workers in munitions factories in Belfast.

For several weeks an epidemic of strange diseases have been breaking out throughout Europe. Spain has been the worst sufferer, but there were also outbreaks in the Scandinavian countries.

## BEGGAR HAD \$500

(International News Service.)  
Memphis.—John Johnston, a professional beggar, cursed a white woman when she refused to buy a pencil from him. He was arrested. At the city jail when he was searched \$500 in currency was found in his clothes.

## A Week's Cruise on 4 Lakes



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New Service to Charlevoix, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Bay View, Roaring Brook, We-quon-ong and Mackinac Island.

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## Line Up and Sign Up on June 28th

Enlist as a war saver in the great "army that stays at home"—the second line of defense behind our boys in the first line trenches.

The government has officially set Friday, June 28th, as

## National War Savings Day

Be ready to step forward on that day and prove your patriotism. Don't wait to be summoned to "sign the pledge"—arrange now to invest in a definite amount of War Savings Stamps each month during 1918.

W. S. S. Cost \$4.17 in June

Worth \$5.00 Jan. 1st, 1923

Be Ready to Go the Limit—Line Up and Sign Up on June 28th



National War Savings Committee

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## Conserve Energy

The National policy is to avoid waste. It's just as bad to waste energy as to waste food or money.

Keeping dressed up in heavy, hot clothes means waste of energy.



Keep cool and fit.  
Look and feel summery.

Come in and see the summer clothes we are showing in models stylishly tailored for men of all build, including the hard-to-fit stouts and slims.

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